

## **HARD ROCK BATTERY: DATELINE FEBRUARY 2006**

**BY: Capt. G. Wells, Commander.**

The Hard Rock battery has been putting out a tremendous effort and has finally settled into a nice, manageable battle rhythm. The success of this brigade truly rests on the Soldiers, noncommissioned officers, and officers of this fine battery. I'm happy to say that we've done very well thus far, we've managed to everyone safe and injury free, and we are conducting regular training in addition to our daily missions. As the Headquarters Battery for the Fires Brigade, we conduct such a variety of missions that I'd be hard pressed to list them out here. Since the last newsletter, we have conducted multiple convoys into the International Zone (green zone) in Baghdad. We have also conducted a gamut of inspections to ensure that the radars and counterfire assets in our area of operation are operating properly and that the Soldiers that conduct these tedious jobs are well cared for. Great soldiers like CPL David Hite and SGT Philip Stiefer put in the hard work and effort to make those inspections a success. We continue to conduct different and challenging missions daily. I have to say that this battery is blessed to have a great First Sergeant, 1SG Ken Carmickle, and Executive Officer, 1LT Max Fuldauer, that continue to help me and the battery on the right azimuth.

This month I had the pleasure of promoting plenty of great soldiers. I take a particular pride in the advancement of soldiers. As they assume a higher rank, they take on more responsibility. It is far more than a pay increase. To me it signifies the maturation and development of the soldier, and his or her greater potential for leadership positions. These soldiers are eager to take on this role, to accept new responsibilities, and to become great leaders. In January we promoted PV2 James Richardson to Private First Class, PV2 Joshua Meuchel to Private First Class, PV2 Joshua Duff to Private First Class, PVT Michael Robinson to PV2, PFC Ariel Class to Specialist, PFC Matthew Wilson to Specialist. In February we promoted PFC Cassius Towns to Specialist, PV2 Jeremy Elliot to Private First Class, and PFC Brett Graham to Specialist.

We also had some soldiers doing great things around the brigade that earned awards this month. We presented the following soldiers with the Army Commendation Medal: 1LT(P) Max Fuldauer, MSG Rodney Byus, SFC John Coleman, SSG Latrece Peterson, SSG Lisa Walters, SGT Matthew Edmonds, SGT Kelly Stewart, and SPC Donald Barrow. These soldiers, along with the rest of HHB, continue to put forth a great effort to contribute to the completion of our mission.

This month the Army has guaranteed a successful future with the reenlistment of two of my finest noncommissioned officers. CPL Sisily Eager and SGT Raymond Siller were reenlisted by the Vice Chief of Staff, General Cody, in a great ceremony on 13 February 2006. I'm sure they will remember that day for a while!

Starting this month, I'd like to spotlight a soldier each month. I'll let SPC Anna Joell Johnson take the lead on this. She is 20 years old and has been in the Army for 2 years. Although her primary MOS (Military Occupational Specialty) is 92F (Fueler), she does great work in our supply room. This is her first time in Iraq. She says, "it kind of feels like being back at Fort Hood (minus the weekends)." Every Tuesday and Thursday she goes to bible study with her battle buddy, SPC Latonia Johnson. She would like to say to her Grandpa: "I love you and miss you. Everything is great here, and I can't wait to see you when I get home."

We look forward to increased VTC capabilities and we'll keep publishing the schedules through FRG channels. Please feel free to contact the FRG leader, Andrea Wells at [andrea.j.wells@us.army.mil](mailto:andrea.j.wells@us.army.mil) or (254) 634-2250 if you have any questions or issues about FRG functions.